

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

NEW NAMES FOR TWO SUBSPECIES OF *PEROMYSCUS*
MANICULATUS (WAGNER).

BY EDGAR A. MEARNS.

Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., has drawn my attention to the fact that the names applied by me to two forms of the genus *Peromyscus*, defined in 1890, were preoccupied, and are therefore not available.

The name *Hesperomys leucopus arcticus* Mearns (1890)* must be considered as preoccupied by "[*Hesperomys*] *arcticus*, Sauss." of Coes 1877, † in accordance with "opinion 4," rendered by the international commission on zoological nomenclature, ‡ which affirms that "manuscript names acquire standing in nomenclature when printed in connection with the provisions of Art. 25, § and the question as to their validity is not influenced by the fact whether such names are accepted or rejected by the author responsible for their publication." In this case it is evident that the author did not intend to set up *arcticus* as the name of a valid form, as, indeed, he expressly stated that he considered it to show not the slightest departure from the ordinary form of *leucopus*. The name *arcticus* can not be regarded as a *nomen nudum*, as Coes gave a complete history, with no less than eight measurements of specimen No. 3924. Moreover, as the animal from Labrador to which Coes attached the name *arcticus*, in 1877, is a synonym of *Hesperomys maniculatus* Wagner, 1845, the name *arcticus* disappears from nomenclature || and can not be used for the different form from Fort Simpson, Mackenzie, Canada, which I described, in 1890, under the name *Hesperomys leucopus arcticus*; for the latter I now propose the name *borealis*.

* Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. II, 1890, p. 285.

† Monogr. N. Am. Rodentia, 1877, p. 67 (in text) and p. 61 (where the name is misprinted *arcticus*), table XI, line 1 (Labrador).

‡ Opinions rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. Opinions 1 to 25, publication No. 1938 of the Smithsonian Institution, July, 1910.

§ International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 1905, p. 23.

|| "[*Hesperomys*] *bairdii* Sauss.", which Coes mentions in the same connection, also from Labrador, has the same status as *arcticus*; it being a young specimen of Wagner's *maniculatus* (Not *Mus bairdii* Hooy and Kennicott, 1856).

Baird's *Hesperomys sonoriensis nebrascensis** is a *nomen nudum*, though it is evident from a comparison of the text and synonymy on pages 462 and 474 of his Mammals of North America that he at first intended to describe this race as a form of *sonoriensis*, but that, later, he changed his opinion respecting its validity or possibly omitted it through oversight; but Coues repeated the name†, and referred to specimens from Deer Creek, Nebraska, giving measurements and a critical remark on coloration. The name will therefore have to date from Coues. This Nebraskan form was redescribed by Osgood as *Peromyscus luteus*.‡

The *Hesperomys leucopus nebrascensis* Mearns§, from Calf Creek, Custer County, Montana, is subspecifically distinct from *Hesperomys sonoriensis* var. *nebrascensis* Coues, from Deer Creek, Nebraska, and as it must receive a new name, I propose *osgoodi* as a subspecific appellation.

The synonymy of the three forms involved stands as follows:

***Peromyscus maniculatus borealis*, new name.**

ARCTIC DEER MOUSE.

Hesperomys leucopus arcticus MEARNS, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. N. Y., II, 1890, p. 285 (not of Coues). Fort Simpson, Hudson's Bay Territory, September 7th, R. Kennicott.

Peromyscus maniculatus arcticus OSGOOD, N. Am. Fauna, No. 19, 1900, p. 33.

***Peromyscus maniculatus nebrascensis* (COUES).**

NEBRASKA DEER MOUSE.

Hesperomys sonoriensis var. *nebrascensis* BAIRD, Mamm. N. Am., 1857, p. 462 (*nomen nudum*).

Hesperomys sonoriensis var. *nebrascensis* COUES, Monogr. N. Am. Rodentia, 1877, p. 79, synonymy under *Hesperomys leucopus sonoriensis*, p. 28 (critical remark on coloration), p. 80 (mentions specimens from Deer Creek, Nebraska).

Peromyscus nebrascensis of authors (not of Mearns).

Peromyscus luteus OSGOOD, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XVIII, 1905, p. 78 (Kennedy, Nebraska).

Peromyscus maniculatus luteus OSGOOD, N. Am. Fauna, No. 28, 1909, p. 77.

***Peromyscus maniculatus osgoodi*, new name.**

BLACK-EARED DEER MOUSE.

Hesperomys leucopus nebrascensis MEARNS, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. 1890, p. 285 (not *Hesperomys sonoriensis* var. *nebrascensis* Coues, 1877). Calf Creek, Custer County, Montana.

Peromyscus texanus nebrascensis ALLEN, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y., VIII, 1896, p. 251 (part).

Peromyscus maniculatus nebrascensis OSGOOD, N. Am. Fauna, No. 28, 1909, p. 75 (based on Mearns).

* Mamm. N. Am., 1857, p. 462.

† Monogr. N. Am. Rodentia, 1877, pp. 28, 79 and 80.

‡ Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 1905, p. 78 (Kennedy, Nebraska).

§ Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y., 1890, p. 285.